

Good evening Senators, Representatives, and Members of the Committee. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify before you today.

My name is Nancy Rogalski. I live in New Haven and I am a registered voter. I am a senior at Southern Connecticut State University, graduating this May with a degree in English with which I hope to pursue a career in book publishing. Among many others, I have aspirations of being a successful fiction writer one day. Besides my studies, I am the current President of the English Club on campus. I was not always this driven. If you had told me five years ago that all of these things would be a possibility for me, I would not have believed you. When I first came to Southern I was about as lost as you can be. I had just taken a year off after graduation high school and I had no direction. I did not know what I wanted to study, or what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. It was not until a few well-placed teachers in the English Department got a hold of me that I decided what I was going to major in. The English Department at Southern is full of professors who love what they do. They're knowledgeable, always willing to help, and always willing to listen. What the English Department, as well as Southern as a whole has done for me, is give me a place and purpose for my life. I have direction now. I'm sure of myself. I'm confident. All of this is because of Southern and the English Department there. However, I feel the budget cuts being proposed could be detrimental for the professors, and this in turn will negatively impact the students.

Part of Southern's mission statement is to provide students with a quality higher education. With the budget cuts, as well as the reorganization of the boards for all of CSU, I am afraid that the quality of education that Southern, as well as the quality of education other CSU schools offer, will suffer. I understand that budget cuts are unavoidable with the current state of the economy, but I ask that the decisions regarding the CSU system be reconsidered. It is my hope that some other kid like me be afforded all that Southern and CSU have to offer, and I hope that they will have

chances and opportunities to grow and thrive as I have. However, I fear the budget cuts and combining of CSU with the community colleges as well as Charter Oak will be a hindrance to that possibility. In the past few years, there have already been budget cuts that have greatly affected the operation of the university. Give current and future students a chance, and please reconsider this proposal.

Thank you for your time.